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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The prestige of V. M. Molotov suffered a setback because he did not
   believe that the Western powers would succeed in finding an alternate   25X1
   solution to their security problems after the failure of EDC, although
   Soviet diplomatic representatives in Western countries had warned about
   such a development. The stand taken by Molotov was severely criticized
   by officials of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by members
   of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
   Molotov's opinion that the rejection of EDC by the French Assembly had
   created a deep gulf between the Western European countries and the USA
   was particularly discredited. _____ such a victory for Soviet
   policies, if possible, would come only after a long period of time.

2. _____ a group within the Central Committee closely connected
   with Khrushchev was making efforts to overthrow Molotov as Minister of
   Foreign Affairs and to retain him only as First Deputy Chairman of the   25X1
   Council of Ministers.

   ____ Comment. It may be correct that Molotov was criticized by Party   25X1
   circles in connection with the drafting of the London agreements. That
   the opposition against him has assumed such serious proportions that his
   removal as Minister of Foreign Affairs is expected has not been evident.
   It is, however, not impossible that such a step will be taken in Moscow
   after the ratification and implementation of the Paris agreements.

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